

The Lehman Uplands Conservation Easement would allow for light livestock grazing under a grazing plan approved by the Methow Conservancy. Any grazing would occur only in the uplands (livestock would be fenced out of the riparian and wetland areas), and the grazing approach would follow a conservation-oriented regime. The intent would be for grazing to result in a reduction in non-native grasses and noxious weeds, an increase in native bunchgrasses, and an increase in overall ecosystem functions and health. This type of grazing approach has been successful in several other areas, such as the eastern Sierras Nevadas.

The grazing plan would include a monitoring approach that evaluated plant species growth, abundance and distribution; soil water holding capacity; and other ecological factors. Specific target levels would be set for each monitored element, and the plan would include an adaptive management approach where grazing methods would be modified if the targets were not being met.